

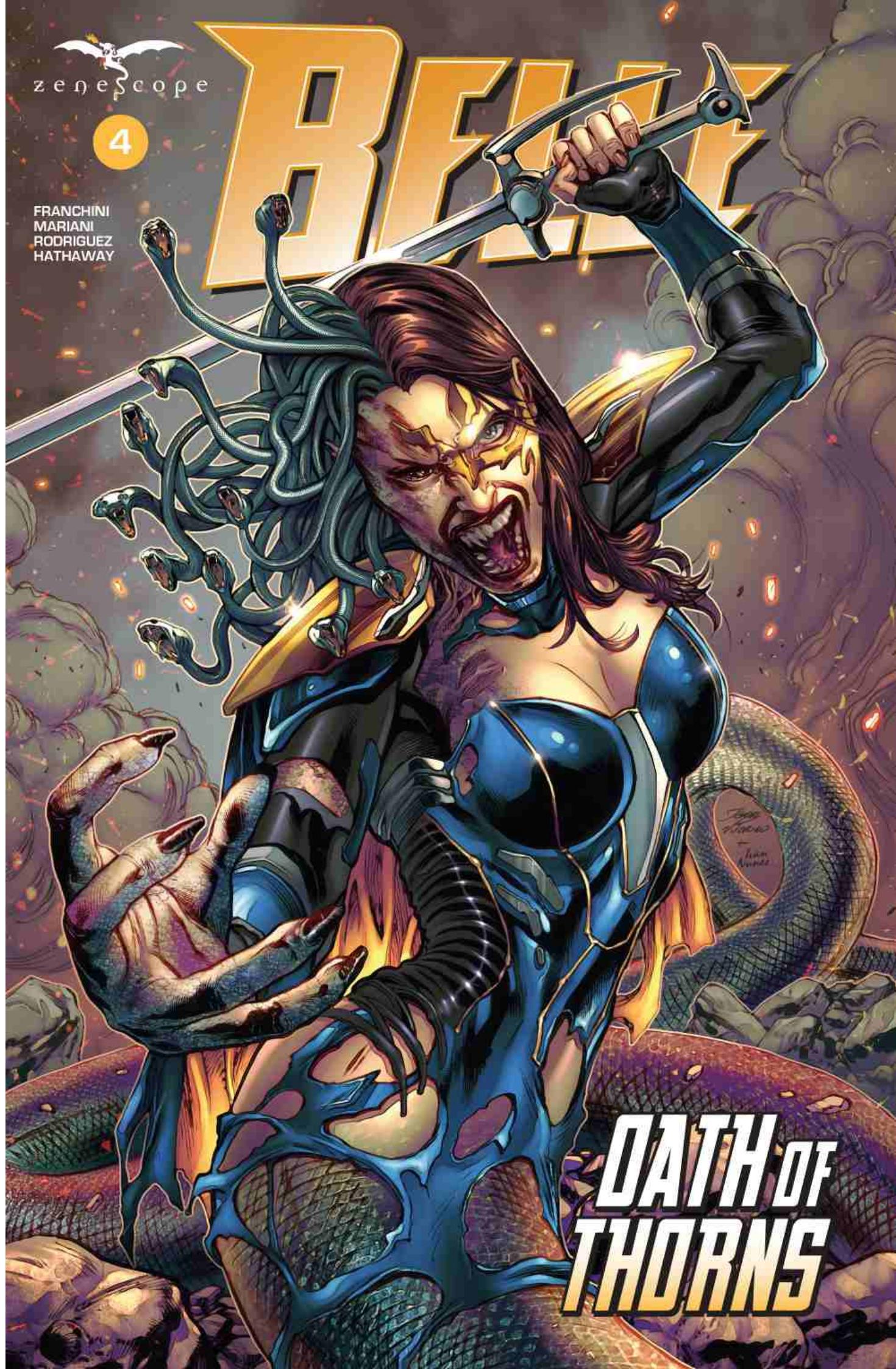
zenescope

4

FRANCHINI
MARIANI
RODRIGUEZ
HATHAWAY

BELIE

**DATH OF
THORNS**





OKAY, NOW I'M GOING TO LET YOU OUT OF THERE.



KLK KLK

JUST PLEASE DON'T EAT ME.



SHNT

SHNT



GRAWRR!

WHOA! WHOA! REMEMBER THE WHOLE DON'T EAT ME PART OF THE DEAL?

THAT WAS A PRETTY HIGH PRIORITY ON THE AGREEMENT OF ME SETTING YOU FREE.



LOOK, WE JUST NEED YOUR HELP.

THINGS AREN'T RIGHT HERE.

WE CAN GET YOU OFF OF THIS SHIP.







SO, HERE WE ARE.

I REALLY WASN'T PLANNING FOR THIS TO BE THE WAY MY LIFE ENDED.

I WAS KIND OF HOPING TO MAYBE GO OUT OLD AND SURROUNDED BY FRIENDS.



YOU KNOW. NOT SURROUNDED BY A BUNCH OF MONSTERS WHO WANT TO MAKE ME PART OF THE FAMILY.

I'M NOT REALLY FEELING THE WHOLE EIGHT LEGS AND A TAIL VIBE.



THINK, BELLE. OF LITERALLY ANYTHING.

WAIT! CAN'T WE TALK ABOUT THIS?

THERE HAS TO BE SOMETHING YOU WANT OR NEED?



NOOOOOO.

NOO MOREESS TALKSSINNNING FOORR YOUUSS.

COME ON. WE'VE BEEN IN WORSE SITUATIONS.



WHO AM I KIDDING? THIS IS DEFINITELY THE WORST SITUATION.

I'M, LIKE, A MAGNET FOR THESE NOWADAYS.

WAIT A SECOND. THAT'S IT!

OTTS, YOU
MIGHT BE A
BACKSTABBING
SOCIOPATH,
BUT PLEASE
LET YOUR
EQUIPMENT
HOLD UP.

CLICK

WAAAAA

WAAAAA

COME ON.
COME ON. WORK,
YOU PIECE
OF CRAP.

GOOODDSS
BYEEEE
SHHHUNNTTEERR.

YOUSSSS
WILL MAKKEESS
AA LOVESLLYY
DAUGHTERR.

AAAAHSSSS!!!!

SHRISSHH

YES!

I CAN'T
BELIEVE THAT
WORKED.

OH, I'M SO GOING
TO KICK YOUR ASS
WHEN I SEE YOU,
OTTS. BUT THANK
GOD YOU HAVE
SOME FINE
CRAFTSMANSHIP.

SHRIIP
UNK



SORRY, BUT I ALREADY HAVE ONE PSYCHO-ASS MOM IN MY FAMILY. I DON'T NEED ANOTHER.

PLUS, HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO BRING GUYS HOME TO YOU?

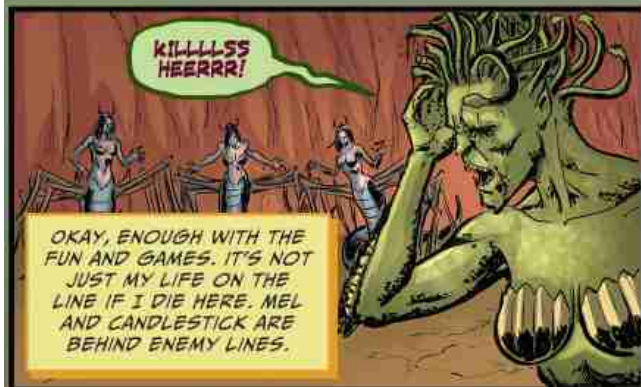


YOU GOT NO EYES, YOU'RE MISSING AN ARM...

...AND YOUR HAIR'S A MESS.

AHHSSSS!!

YOU'D SCARE THEM AWAY.



KILLSS HEERRR!

OKAY, ENOUGH WITH THE FUN AND GAMES. IT'S NOT JUST MY LIFE ON THE LINE IF I DIE HERE. MEL AND CANDLESTICK ARE BEHIND ENEMY LINES.



AND AS MUCH AS I LOVE BREATHING, IT'S NOT WORTH IT WITHOUT THEM. I NEED TO GET SERIOUS.



THERE'S TOO MANY TO TAKE ON AT ONCE, ESPECIALLY ON THEIR GROUND. I NEED TO GET TOPSIDE.



WELL, ISN'T THIS JUST WONDERFUL?

NOW IS ONE OF THOSE TIMES WHERE YOU REGRET NOT BEING TURNED INTO AN EIGHT-LEGGED SLITHER MONSTER WHO CAN CLIMB WALLS.



IT WOULD HAVE COME IN REAL HANDY RIGHT ABOUT NOW.



SO. TWO
OPTIONS HERE.

POTENTIALLY FALL
TO MY OWN DEATH...



...OR, OVER-THINK, FREEZE UP,
AND BE FORCED TO TAKE ON
SHELOB, CHARLOTTE, AND ALL
THEIR FRIENDLY SISTERS.



YEAH.
SCREW IT.

PLEASE DON'T
LET ME DIE.



LIFE IS FULL
OF CHOICES.

SOMETIMES YOU GOTTA
JUST TAKE THAT EXTRA
STEP AND OCCASIONALLY
THEY WORK OU--



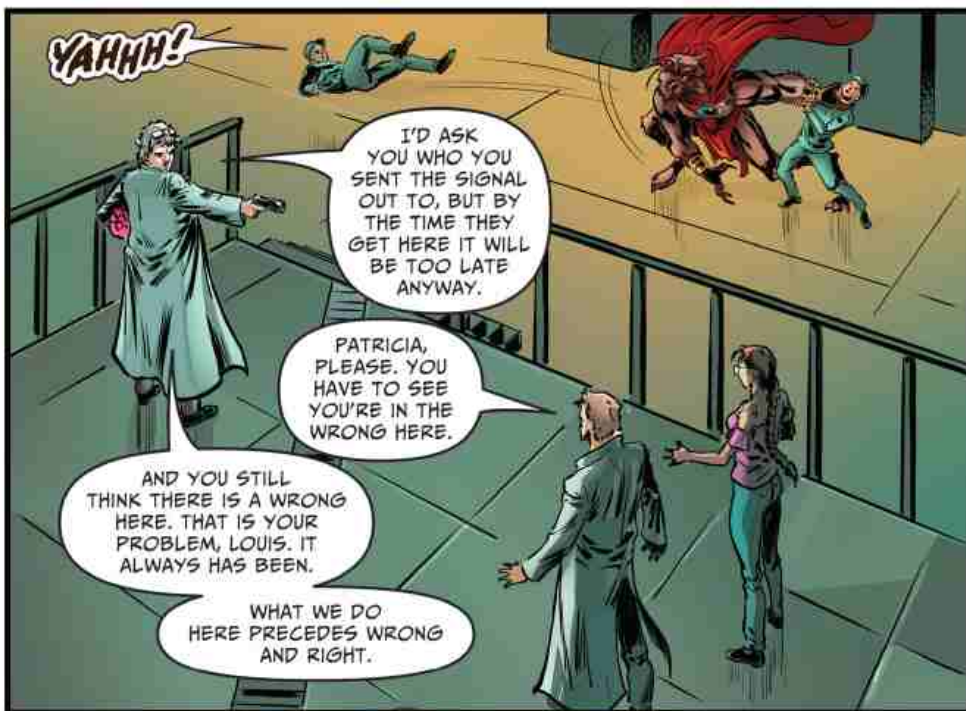
OH,
COME
THE
%*B#(0
ON!













LET'S GET
THIS OVER
WITH.



YOOUUS
HASSSSYESS LOSSST
SHHHUNNTERR.

NOWW
ASSXXCEPT YOUURRR
DEATSSHH.

SHE'S NOT WRONG. I DON'T
REALLY SEE A WAY OUT OF THIS.



I'M NOT
GOING TO
GIVE HER
THAT
SATISFACTION
THOUGH.

IT'S NOT
OVER YET,
UGLY.

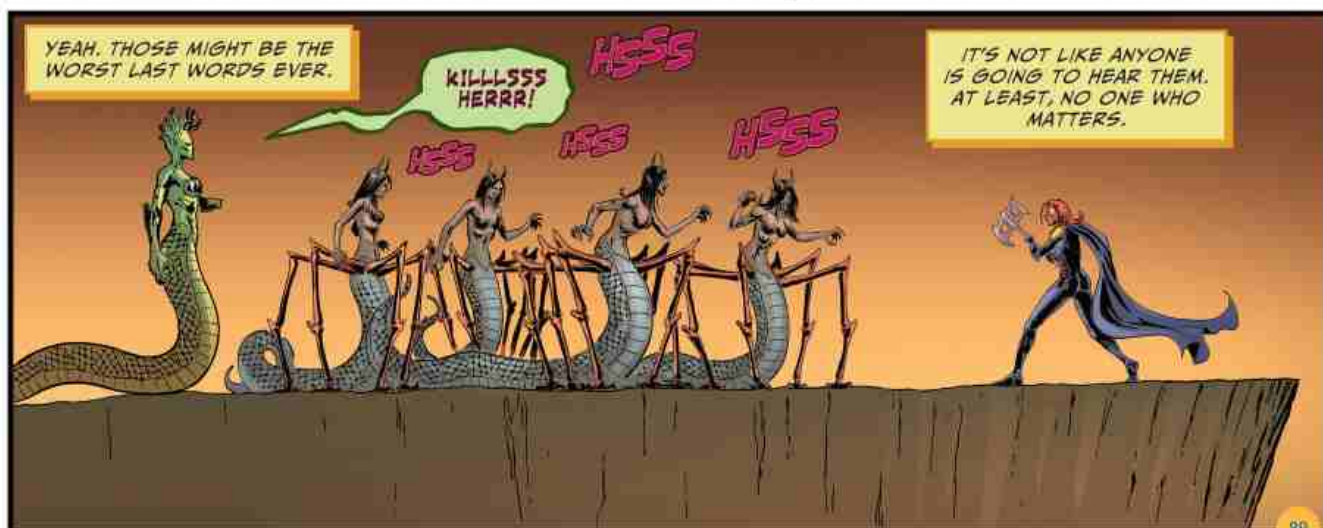
PROBABLY
NOT MY BEST
INSULT.



BUT, LIKE CANDLESTICK
ALWAYS SAYS. KEEP IT SIMPLE,
AND DO THE MISSION.

I HOPE HE
KNOWS I LOVED
HIM LIKE HE
WAS MY DAD.

COME
GET
SOME!



YEAH. THOSE MIGHT BE THE
WORST LAST WORDS EVER.

KILLSSS
HERRR!

HSSS

HSSS

HSSS

IT'S NOT LIKE ANYONE
IS GOING TO HEAR THEM.
AT LEAST, NO ONE WHO
MATTERS.

I'M READY. IT'S BEEN
A GOOD RIDE.

NO
REGRETS,
I MEAN,
EXCEPT
COMING
HERE.

BOOM

WHAT THE HELL?

NOOOOO!

SPLRCH

BOOM



SPLRCH

SPLCH

BOOM
BOOM

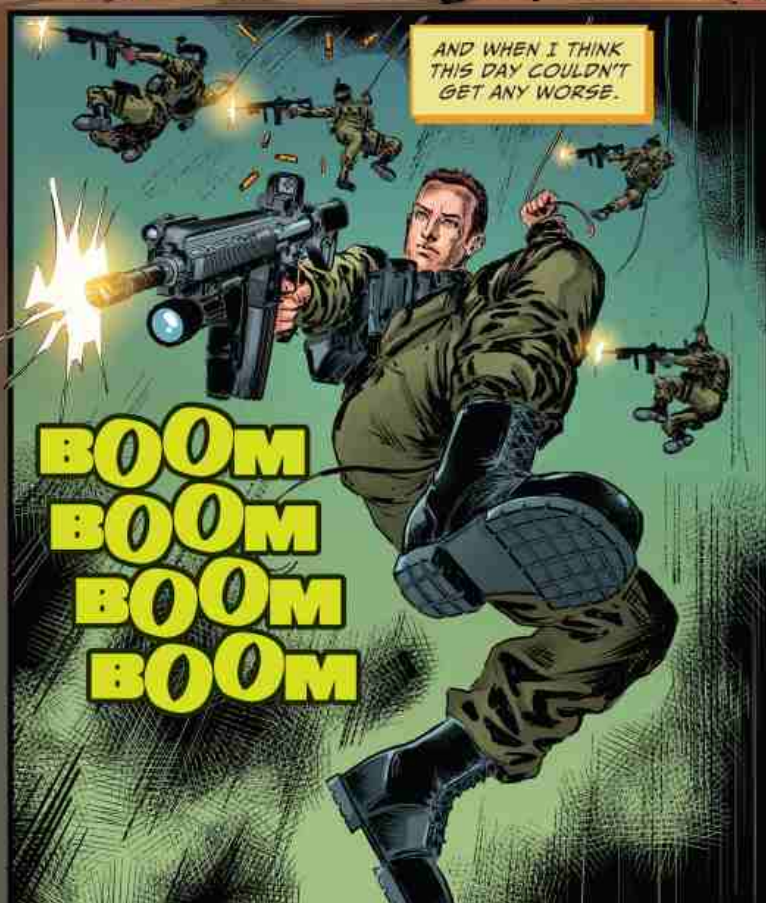
WHO?

OH.



AND WHEN I THINK
THIS DAY COULDN'T
GET ANY WORSE.

BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM







WHAT IS HE EVEN DOING HERE?

HE DID SAVE MY LIFE.

BUT THAT DOESN'T CHANGE WHAT HE'S DONE.



FOCUS, BELLE.



LET'S DEAL WITH ONE CHILDHOOD TRAUMA AT A TIME.



FIRST UP, MEDUSA.

NOW WHERE THE HELL ARE YOU?



HSSDIEEE!

OH, SHI--



SRSH



HRRAHH-HSSSSHH!



EW. I NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE THIS.

I'VE DREAMT ABOUT IT, TONS OF TIMES, BUT TO SEE IT RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME...



...NOW IT'S JUST SAD.

GETTSSS BACCKKK

ALL THOSE NIGHTS I'VE HAD NIGHTMARES ABOUT YOU.



SSSTAAAYY AWAAYY!

THOSE NIGHTS I'D WAKE UP SCREAMING FOR MY MOM.

SSSHOOOWWSS MEEE MERCCSSYY.



BUT YOU TOOK HER AWAY FROM ME.

YOU TOOK MY LIFE AWAY FROM ME.

PLLEASSEEEE.

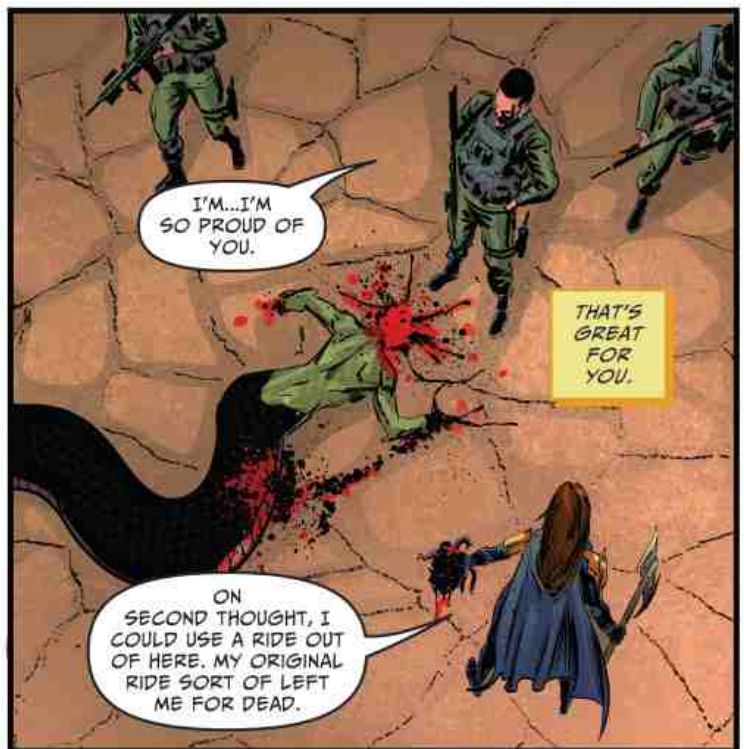


I THINK IT'S ONLY FAIR I RETURN THE FAVOR.

NOOOO!!



SLRSSSHH





THIS WHOLE THING IS CRAZY. BESIDES MY LIFE FIGHTING MONSTERS, THE FACT THAT I RUN INTO THE MONSTER THAT TOOK MY MOTHER FROM ME, AND I SEE MY FATHER THAT SAME DAY AND AT THE SAME LOCATION IS BEYOND BIZARRE.

I'M NOT REALLY ONE FOR COINCIDENCE.



IT REALLY IS GREAT TO SEE YOU, ANABELLE.

I'VE MISSED YOU MORE THAN YOU KNOW.

REALLY? SO MUCH THAT YOU COULDN'T SEND ME A BIRTHDAY CARD IN YEARS?

NOT EVEN A PHONE CALL TO CHECK IN ON ME?



PLEASE. I'M SORRY. I KNOW I'M NOT FATHER-OF-THE-YEAR OR EVEN THE CENTURY, BUT LET ME EXPLAIN TO YOU WHAT I HAVE BEEN UP TO ALL THESE YEARS.

AFTER THAT, I'LL DROP YOU OFF WHEREVER YOU NEED TO BE.

UHH. FINE. I DON'T HAVE MUCH OF A CHOICE SINCE YOU'RE MY ONLY RIDE.



HOW DID YOU FIND ME ANYWAY?

TO BE HONEST, IT WASN'T YOU WE WERE LOOKING FOR. I SEARCHED FOR YEARS IN THESE MOUNTAINS FOR THE MONSTER WHO TOOK YOUR MOTHER FROM US AND CAME UP WITH NOTHING.

SO I SET A WATCH HERE FOR ANY UNUSUAL ACTIVITY OR ENERGY SURGES.

NOW I GET WHERE MY OBSESSIVE TRAITS COME FROM.

THE TELEPORTER.

I'M ASSUMING THAT'S WHAT WE MUST HAVE PICKED UP.



BEFORE WE WENT IN, WE ALSO RECEIVED ANOTHER SIGNAL. THIS TIME ON PURPOSE. IT WAS A DISTRESS SIGNAL.

FROM LOUIS.

CANDLESTICK?

MY UNIT IS WORKING TO BACK TRACE IT AS WE SPEAK.

NO. WHAT KIND OF TROUBLE ARE YOU GUYS IN?







BELLE

OATH OF THORNS